

# The Colored American

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## A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

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Subscriptions may be sent by postoffice money order, express or by registered letter. All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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### OUR WEEKLY TEXT.

"Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works."

### WHY DON'T YOU GET A BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN?

A race to command attention in the money market, should have a large admixture of business men. It must have a prosperous employing class; with brains, courage and enterprise. The inexorable law of commerce and trade is that the fittest survive—the incompetent or unthrifty must do according to the will of those who hold the power. While capital and labor are allies, by every natural law, they are seldom equal sharers in the rewards which accrue from their mutual efforts. Capital is king. Labor is the subject—sometimes the slave. The wage-earner loses by cuts and arrearages when the employer loses, but he seldom gets more than his meagre stipend when the firm "strikes it rich," so to speak. The employer makes a profit on the service rendered by each hand engaged, and his emoluments for time and sagacity invested, will equal the margin realized on each man, multiplied by the number of men—for it is not to be assumed that more hands will be employed then are absolutely necessary to the conduct of the business run at the highest pressure on each individual. Thus, the manager may earn \$100 where the wage-earner makes \$10, and, furthermore, enjoy the proud American privilege of being "boss."

The moral to this is not to be learned in a spirit of envy or jealousy of the more fortunate or more industrious. The point to be impressed upon the working young man of intelligence and capacity, is to save something out of the little you earn, with the determination to go into business for your self. Practice self denial, live within your means, and acquire sufficient capital to join the employing class and be master of yourself. You might as well

earn the \$100 as the contractor, as to accept the \$10 and do practically all the work. It is the business man and the employer that makes the money. So, young colored man, save and serve today that you may rule tomorrow. Only in this way, can the race become a factor in the commercial activities of the world about us.

A man who will refrain from joining a beneficial organization because some one whom he doesn't like holds a prominent place therein doesn't deserve to be at large. He is a menace to the health and morals of a community.

West Virginia seems to offer an "open door" to Afro-Americans of push, pluck and intelligent persistence—if her treatment of bright young men like "Phil" Waters, J. McHenry Jones, S. H. Guss, S. W. Starks, H. F. Gamble and E. W. Henry offer any criterion. The home of Atkinson, Scott, Freer and Elkins is all right!

### Cultivate self reliance.

Now that the mania for lynching is causing numerous white people to get "the wots of it," the beginning of the end is in sight.

Mr. Fortune brought down glad tidings from the classic shades of Cedar Street. He has made the moneyless Washingtonian feel like a Carnegie by discoursing so eloquently upon "The Blessings of Poverty."

### EDITOR MURPHY IN HOT WATER AGAIN.

It is not our mission to deliver personal lectures. We step out of the way for a moment, however, to give our great and good friend Editor J. H. Murphy, of the Afro American Ledger, a little friendly advice. Brother Murphy is a candidate for the secretaryship of the A. M. E. Sunday School Union. The place is now held by Rev. Charles Spencer Smith. The latter is a candidate for the Bishopric. Some think he will be chosen; in which event, Editor Murphy, a churchman of long standing and wide influence, hopes to step into his shoes.

Now, if Brother Murphy expects to secure the aforesaid plum, (and we want him to have it, if a vacancy occurs) it stands him in hand to be careful how he walks upon the cross. Human nature is a mighty peculiar thing, and the mercurial temperament of popular sentiment has to be reckoned with by those who woo the goddess of success. Brother Murphy early in life, contracted the "jawing" habit, and his flexible speech organ is continually getting him into trouble. He seems to think the way to keep alive in the public esteem is to systematically "knock" the Rev. C. S. Smith, and to carry a chip on his shoulder to invite a scrimmage with everybody who happens to say a kind word for that gentleman. He is as fussy as the traditional fishwife, and as irascible as a Carlyle. Neither of these qualities are desirable in an official who must wield great power in a church department and with whom all varieties of people must be brought into contact, in a business, social and religious way. He fumes at "one Phil H. Brown" for furnishing an impartial news letter, discussing some of the issues involved, and then foams at the mouth in denunciation of The Colored American. With a consistency distinctively Murphyan, he declines to enter a controversy, yet indulges in a column of it; declares no explanations are necessary,

yet uses up a pound of long primer explaining. He winds up by refusing to have another word to say, yet avers that more fuss is forthcoming if the friends of Dr. Smith do not subside at once and for good.

Now, to make a long story short, Brother Murphy is on the wrong track. He is after the wrong man—shooting in the dark, as it were. If he hopes to succeed Dr. Smith, he can only do it with the aid of Smith's friends—those who seek his elevation to the Bishopric. He should warm up to them, instead of turning the cold shoulder or engaging in a "jaw'est." It is Mr. Murphy's cue to "saw wood"—and get delegates, directly and conditioned on a vacancy. In the meantime, he should do business with the ice man, and try to keep cool. Here endeth the first lesson.

The Twelfth Census will go more deeply into the status of the Negro than any previous statistical investigation. The value of property controlled—farms, houses, stock, etc., acreage of land owned, amount clear of debt, amount mortgaged, money in banks and other corporations—will be given a showing. The number of us engaged in the professions, in the industries or other gainful occupations, will be stated, with comparisons as far as available. This, together with the usual figures on population, mortality, crime, education, religion, etc., will make the compendium of this decade a valuable contribution to Negro history—more interesting to our people than any other Census yet taken. Director Merriam and his assistants have broken a great deal of ground, and we have no doubt of their ability to equal all expectations in point of accuracy, thoroughness, and convenience of arrangement.

### MR WASHINGTON STICKS TO HIS TEXT.

Booker T. Washington, a few days ago, addressed a league of republican clubs in the city of Anderson, Indiana. It goes without saying that he received an ovation. A great audience, made up of the leading white and colored citizens from all over the Hoosier State, gave his argument the most studious attention. The dailies teemed with favorable editorial and news comment.

Some of Mr. Washington's fearful friends however, got out a searchlight and discovered a "mare's nest"—crying out in wild alarm, that the Tuskegee "wizard" had departed from his text, and had "gone into partisan politics." We yield to none in the quality of our friendship for Mr. Washington, and while laying no claim to a special guardianship of his conduct, we would be quick to sound a wavering note if we felt convinced he had made or was about to make a mistake. But, we do not share the alarm of one or two of our esteemed contemporaries in this particular instance. There is no occasion for apology nor explanation for Mr. Washington's appearance in a business capacity before an audience of any character in this land, for he is the property of all the people, and the cause he so capably represents, appeals to the generous impulses of human-kind.

Though speaking to a republican assembly there was nothing in his remarks that savored of partisan politics. There was no urgency of candidates nor distinctively partisan platforms. He spoke as he always does, in his inimitable and striking way, on the progress of the Negro, his achievements and his limitations. He pointed out our needs and suggested practical education and wider opportunities as the

remedy. He analyzed the principles of true government, the inalienable rights guaranteed by the civil law, and urged that the devotees of pure Americanism join hands in mutual and friendly effort to ameliorate the conditions by which the prosperity and happiness of one eighth of our population are held back in the struggle of life. He showed the consequences the nation could not escape if millions of people were kept in ignorance and poverty, and through denial of advantages justly earned and promised by a bond of honor. By according the Negro an equal chance and fair play to win distinction in the arts and industries, the country's record might be spared many a dark spot that now stains its everlasting pages. Upon the history now being made the American republic must rest its claims for consideration by generations yet unborn and by the newer and brighter civilization that must come with succeeding centuries. He appealed to the hearts of men for a speedy solution of this great race problem—not to their political prejudices nor even to political systems.

This is a generalization of Mr. Washington's eloquent address before the Indiana's republicans. Without the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t," the same speech might have been made with equal propriety to an audience of democrats, populists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, or any known class of people. Mr. Washington spoke as an educator, as a statesman, as a social economist, and as a humanitarian. That is all there is of the Tuskegee "wizard's" interference in politics, and the incident may be regarded as closed. Mr. Washington, at all times, day and night, will be found sticking to his text.

The reappearance of Arthur Pugh Gorman in a "leading heavy" role in the democratic councils, means that the republican party is to have a fight on its hands.

The Colored American has no objection to furnishing its esteemed contemporaries with ideas.

Those who read the papers nowadays will discern that the journalistic fraternity hereabouts is very much in evidence in everything that goes on.

In the British-Boer conflict, the former's pitchers seemed to have warmed up to the game, and are getting their balls squarely over the plate.

A man may have ideas and still hold public office.

The Tuskegee Annual Conference was a glowing success, as it deserved to be.

Register Judson W. Lyons holds the key to the Georgia situation. He will continue as national committee man, and head the state delegation to the Philadelphia ratification meeting.

No Excuse in Being a Fool.

There is no excuse for any backwoods Negro editor being a fool, who has The Freeman, The Colored American, The New Age and Lowery's Religious Monthly upon his exchange list (if he can read and reads them.)—"B Square" (A. M. Hodges) in the Indianapolis Free man.